

Parish Council Minutes
January 23, 2007

Members Present: Darren Meyer, Maria Oehl, Cari Trock, Esteban Ruvalcaba, Ted Arthur, Jennifer Dudenhoeffer, D'Arcy Haeusser, Ron Frederick, Fr Thomas Saucier, OP Lucas Volkman and Carol Miller.

Member absent: Fr. Joachim Culotta, OP and Sarah Neumann.

Ex Officio Member: Deacon Gene

Guests: Eleanor Braddock, Libby Miederhoff, Jan Pritchard.

The meeting opened with a prayer from Ron at 7pm.

The minutes were reviewed. Esteban corrected the Social Justice report to read "Social Justice wants to organize a "petition supporting" a moratorium..."

The annual Religious Ed report was given by Jan Prichard. High on there list is to organize a parish wide retreat but the difficulty is finding a weekend that does not conflict with other parish activities. It was suggested to conjoin it with another activity, such as the Chili Cook-off, and then maybe there would be greater attendance at both. The report lists 9 ministries which falls under the Religious Ed. commission which are CEP, Liturgy of the Word, Sacramental Prep, Confirmation, CYO, Life Teen, RCIA, Adult Faith Formation and Kemper Library. Some concerns are low participation in the Adult Faith formation groups and low patronage at the Kemper Library. Fr Thomas pointed out the need to staff the library during evening hours when students and parishioners are more likely use it. It was also suggested to put pamphlets in other libraries in the community to publicize its existence, location and hours of operation. Jan also stated the Religious Ed commission's suggestion to have a paid music minister for the Sun.5:30pm Life Teen mass. That position was paid in the past but Libby pointed out that was only while Newman was receiving a grant to fund the Life Teen ministry. No other mass has a paid music minister and Joe Kouba is willing to help whenever requested and/or needed.

The annual Hospitality Report will be given at a future meeting.

Libby gave the mid-year financial report. She pointed out a few variables in comparison to the budget. Over all Newman is in healthy financial standing. She distributed the Budget Timetable and the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2008. Soon the commissions will be submitting their budget requests to Parish Council for review and approval.

Ad Hoc Committee Reviews:

Vocations - D'Arcy reported the Traveling Cross program will be started in a few weeks. Also, her committee will be taking control of the Vocations Bulletin Board located at the Maryland Street entrance to have current and appealing postings.

Worship Space- Esteban reported they felt a lot of the projects would come through the Building and Grounds Committee but some ideas and areas of concern are:

- 1) the floor in the Chapel needs to be replaced
- 2) install sound panels for sound management. Esteban will talk to Frank Hennessey for suggestions.
- 3) re-adjust the speakers while the scaffolding is here for Newman Week.
- 4) if the Chapel is to maintain a permanent position it was suggested to optimize the use of the projectors by suspending them from the ceiling, reducing clutter in the Worship Space and better positioning for overall visual display.
- 5) to reduce distractions from the activity in the Gathering Space either frost or sandblast the clear glass, possibly with religious symbols.

Student/Parishioner Relations – Maria reported the committee was unable to meet before tonight’s meeting but some things are already in place throughout Newman Week, i.e. the musical, dessert auction, Speaker Series and reception. An additional project in the works is to organize a dance where students and parishioners can come learn a variety of steps/moves.

Student/Faculty Relations – Sarah is currently working on a data base.

Pastor’s Report:

Fr Thomas gave a listing of the parish activities that will be taking place over the next few weeks.

He has an appointment with Lois Ganz to finalize the listing on the rectory on Providence. It should be on the market soon.

The Porter Estate has settled and the money is on deposit with the Diocese. A press release and announcement will be made soon.

Joe Kouba has standardized a policy so when different groups seek participation in liturgy there will be written procedures for them to follow.

The official kickoff of the Columbia Catholic High School will be tomorrow.

Fr Thomas has received a letter from the Diocese reaching out to those who might need assistance due to the recent ice storms. He suggested Newman respond in some way. Esteban moved that we take up a 2nd collection soon and offer it within our local Diocese. Jennifer seconded, motion passed.

Fr Thomas attended the Catholic Campus Ministry Association meeting in San Diego.

Dominican students will be at Newman this weekend to preach at all the masses.

Commission Summaries:

Campus Ministry – Darren reported the up coming activities associated with Newman Week, i.e. The Musical “Her”Story, Speakers Series with George Weigel, Campus wide competition, Parish Carnival, Fire & Ice. Two students will hold classes as their Newman Scholar Projects. Kevin Shull’s class will explore Pope John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body” and LaRue Diehl will research patron saints of the St. Thomas More Newman Center. A new project for Campus Ministry is to hold a Parish Appreciation Sunday having students present at every mass throughout the weekend and serving a free pancake breakfast to the parishioners. A tentative date is April 15th, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Hospitality – Cari reported the stove has been recalibrated in the upstairs kitchen, 6 get well/sympathy cards have been sent through the newly formed card ministry, the International Women’s group which meets the 2nd Wed of each month is going well. Andee hopes more American women will join to balance the group a little better. Volunteers were recruited to help with the Speaker Series reception and breakfast and for the upcoming Faculty lunches.

Religious Ed – Jan gave the annual report earlier so Maria just asked what date PC thought would be good for the parish-wide retreat.

Tithing – Ron -No Report

Social Justice - Esteban reported help will be needed for the families recently relocated in Columbia, the Blood Drive had to be moved to Jan 7th due to a Red Cross conflict – next year it will be held after the students return from Christmas break. The Work of Human Hands sale generated just over \$800.00, an AIDS vigil was held on Dec 4th and the Social Justice Commission is looking into sponsoring/promoting the use of “Hope Bags” during Lent.

Stewardship – Due to Jason’s resignation at the last meeting there was no report.

Worship – No report due to Sarah’s absence.

Special Events –Jennifer -No report.

Deanery Report:

Eleanor reported on four areas of focus on the Diocesan level:

- 1) Inactive Catholics – how to outreach/evangelize?

- 2) Spiritual Maturity – does the content of our Adult Faith programs contain solid Catholic theology?
- 3) Worship – are our RCIA programs successful?
- 4) Widows/Divorced – outreach to help them remain active.

Next meeting is February 27, 2007, 7pm.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Ron at 9:40pm.